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CIA spied on students in U.S., records show

Washington (AP)—The Central Intelligence Agency collected information about political dissidents at Utah State University, Brown University and Boston University in 1970 and 1971, according to newly released documents from the CIA's Operation Chaos.

The 141 pages of CIA files, the first Operation Chaos documents to be made public, also showed that the agency followed the movements of American political dissenters traveling abroad and kept track of foreign visitors to dissident groups in the United States.

A separate batch of 47 documents showed that the CIA, as late as November, 1974, was circulating information about the political activities of the Socialist Workers party leader, Peter Camejo, to one of its overseas stations.

The CIA released parts of Mr. Camejo's dossier to him after he requested it under the Freedom of Information Act.

The agency released the Operation Chaos files to the Socialist Workers in response to a court order in the party's multimillion-dollar damage suit against the CIA and FBI for allegedly illegal harassment.

The files were made public by the Political Rights Defense

Fund, which is financing the party's lawsuit.

In an interview yesterday with NBC news, the director of central intelligence, William E. Colby, indicated that the agency still is permitted to conduct surveillance of American citizens abroad in certain cases, for instance when a foreign intelligence service is trying to recruit them as agents.

However, Mr. Colby said, "Americans overseas are generally not of any interest to us."

But, he added, the end of Operation Chaos "doesn't mean the end of all counterintelligence."

The Rockefeller Commission report said Operation Chaos agents "were specifically used to collect domestic intelligence" on only three occasions, one of them in Washington and the other two not identified further. But the report said CIA recruits who learned how to spy by infiltrating leftist groups in the United States were instructed to report information "acquired incidentally" about dissident activities.

A previously released CIA memo in 1973, seven months before Operation Chaos reportedly was terminated, said the operation was "restricted to the collection abroad of information on foreign activities related to domestic matters."

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